

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04

SIL-01 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /083 W
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P R 250805Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2544

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

USEC BRUSSELS 1726

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 5160

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, SP

SUBJ: "PLATAFORMA DE CONVERGENCIA" SPANISH OPPOSITION
COALITION

REF: MADRID 4195

SUMMARY: NEW "PLATAFORMA DE CONVERGENCIA DEMOCRATICA"
COALITION HAS ISSUED ITS PLATFORM. DIVERSE IDEOLOGIES REPRESENTED
MAY MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR COALITION TO HOLD TOGETHER. DESPITE
ANTI-PCE NATURE OF "PLATAFORMA," CONTACTS REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN
INITIATED WITH RIVAL PCE-SPONSORED "JUNTA DEMOCRATICA" AND
SOME FORM OF ACCOMMODATION CANNOT BE EXCLUDED. END SUMMARY.

1. RECENTLY-FORMED OPPOSITION "PLATAFORMA" COALITION (REF)
ISSUED DOCUMENT CONTAINING ITS PROGRAM JULY 21. DOCUMENT GIVES
NEW COALITION NAME OF PLATAFORMA DE CONVERGENCIA DEMOCRATICA,"
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CALLS FOR JOINT ACTION BY ALL DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL AND TRADE

UNION FORCES, REJECTS CURRENT REGIME AND IMPOSED MONARCHICAL SUCCESSOR STATE, STATES "DICTATORSHIP IS NOT REFORMABLE AND LIBERTY IS NOT NEGOTIABLE," AND CALLS FOR DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS. DOCUMENT ALSO CALLS, INTER ALIA, FOR (A) DEMOCRATIC AND PLURALISTIC REGIME WITHIN FEDERAL STATE; (B) LIBERATION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS; (C) RIGHT TO STRIKE AND TO ORGANIZE FREE TRADE UNIONS; (D) FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, ASSOCIATION, AND ASSEMBLY; (E) FREE ELECTIONS ON FORM OF FUTURE SPANISH GOVT; (F) RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR DIFFERENT SPANISH NATIONALITIES WITHIN FEDERAL STATE; AND (G) RESPECT FOR SPAIN'S INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS PROVIDING LATTER HAVE NOT COMPROMISED SPAIN'S NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE.

2. OPPOSITION POLITICAL AND TRADE UNION GROUPS SIGNING DOCUMENT INCLUDE: (A) IDC CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS OF JOAQUIN RUIZ GIMENEZ; (B) SOCIALIST PSOE; (C) USDE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, CURRENTLY IN LEADERSHIP VACUUM DUE TO RECENT DEATH OF DIONISIO RIDRUEJO; (D) CARLISTS; (E) CATALAN SOCIALIST REGROUPING (OLD MSC, PLUS SMALLER CATALAN GROUPS); (F) VALENCIAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS; (G) GALICIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS; (H) MCE OR SPANISH COMMUNIST MOVEMENT, AN ANTI-PCE MAOIST GROUP; (I) ORT EXTREME LEFTIST CATHOLIC LABOR COMPONENT OF WORKERS COMMISSIONS; AND (J) SOCIALIST UGT, LABOR AFFILIATE OF PSOE. FIVE BASQUE GROUPS ARE ALSO SIGNATORIES, BUT VIA PARTICIPATION OF BASQUE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL, WHICH REPRESENTS (A) BASQUE NATIONALIST PNV; (B) STV, LABOR AFFILIATE OF PNV; (C) SMALL ACCION VASCA GROUP; (D) BASQUE SECTION OF OLD ANARCHIST, LARGELY DORMANT, CNT LABOR FEDERATION; AND (E) WORKERS COMMISSIONS OF BASQUE COUNTRY, ONE OF FEW NOT UNDER DOMINATION OF SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCE).

3. TWO CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC GROUPS REFRAINED FROM SIGNING, I.E., (A) CENTRIST CATHOLIC FPD, WHICH IS NEW DESIGNATION FOR JOSE MARIA ROBLES' OLD DSC (GIL ROBLES REPORTEDLY OBJECTS TO PRESENCE OF EXTREME LEFTISTS SUCH AS MCE AND ORT); AND (B) UDC CATALAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY. DESPITE THEIR REFUSAL TO JOIN NOW, BOTH FPP AND UDC INTEND CONTINUE TO SEND OBSERVERS TO "PLATAFORM" MEETINGS, AND THUS WILL MAINTAIN ONE FOOT INSIDE AND ONE OUTSIDE OF "PLATAFORMA" COALITION.

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4. NEW COALITION INCLUDES MOST NON-PCE CLANDESTINE LABOR GROUPS, WITH NOTABLE EXCEPTION, HOWEVER, OF CATHOLIC-ORIENTED USO. EVEN USO, HOWEVER, IS REPORTEDLY MAINTAINING ONE FOOT IN DOOR AND HAS SENT AN OBSERVER TO ONE OR MORE "PLATAFORMA" MEETINGS, AND POSSIBLE FUTURE USO PARTICIPATION CANNOT BE EXCLUDED. THESE GROUPS' PARTICIPATION HAS ALREADY REPORTEDLY (AWL SOWN CONFUSION AMONG WORKERS LONG SUBJECTED TO PROPAGANDA BARRAGE OF PCE-DOMINATED RIVAL "JUNTA DEMOCRATICA," (B) WIDENED GROWING

RIFT WITHIN WORKERS COMMISSIONS BETWEEN PCE AND ORT; AND (C) ENHANCED POSSIBILITY A FEW OTHER LOCAL WORKERS COMMISSIONS WHERE PCE INFLUENCE IS WEAK MIGHT ABANDON "JUNTA" AND JOIN "PLATAFORMA" INSTEAD.

5. COMMENT: AGREEMENT ON PROGRAM WAS REPORTEDLY DIFFICULT DUE TO DIVERSE IDEOLOGICAL COMPLEXIONS OF PARTICIPATING GROUPS, AND THIS DIVERSITY IS ONE OF ITS BIGGEST WEAKNESSES AND MAY MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO HOLD "PLATAFORMA" TOGETHER. ONE SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF PROGRAM IS EMPHASIS ON FEDERAL STATE AND RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR SPAIN'S DIVERSE NATIONALITIES, A COMMON FEATURE OF MOST OPPOSITION GROUPS BUT ANATHEMA TO ARMED FORCES. "PLATAFORMA'S" PROMISE TO RESPECT SPAIN'S INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDES THOSE LIMITING "NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE," PRESUMABLY A VEILED REFERENCE TO US-SPANISH AFC.

6. CEMENT HOLDING "PLATAFORMA" COALITION TOGETHER IS COMMON HOSTILITY TO PCE AND "JUNTA DEMOCRATICA." NEVERTHELESS ITS PROGRAM LEFT DOOR AJAR FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE ENTRY OF PCE (AND TIerno GALVAN'S PSP) BY STATING "PLATAFORMA" IS OPEN TO ALL "DEMOCRATIC (SIC) PARTIES AND TRADE UNIONS WITHOUT EXCLUSIONS." WORDING THUS DELIBERATELY DESIGNED ALLOW ONLY "PARTIES AND TRADE UNIONS" (SUCH AS PCE AND PSP) TO JOIN AND TO EXCLUDE THE INDIVIDUALS, UNSPECIFIED "FORCES," AND PCE FRONT GROUPS WHICH HAVE PROLIFERATED IN "JUNTA DEMOCRATICA" (E.G. CALVO SERER). SOME LEADERS IN "PLATAFORMA", E.G. RUIZ GIMENEZ, HOPE TO GET PCE TO JOIN. DESPITE CURRENT HOSTILITY BETWEEN MAJORITY IN "PLATAFORMA" COALITION TOWARDS "JUNTA DEMOCRATICA," CONTACTS HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN INITIATED BETWEEN BOTH COALITIONS. ALTHOUGH IT NOW APPEARS UNLIKELY THESE COULD LEAD TO MERGER OF BOTH COALITIONS AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED, A POSSIBLE FUTURE ABANDONMENT BY PCE AND PSP OF INDIVIDUALS AND "FORCES" IN "JUNTA" TO EITHER JOIN "PLATAFORMA" COALITION OR TO FORM A BROADER
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COALITION CONSISTING ONLY OF PARTIES AND TRADE UNIONS CANNOT BE EXCLUDED.
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